



**2ND MEETING
ECONOMICALLY DISTRESSED AREAS SUBGROUP**

MEETING MINUTES

**JULY 8, 2010
1:00 PM**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUILDING
HOUSE ROOM D
901 Capitol Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219**

Subgroup Members Present:

Delegate Matthew James
Donna Johnson
Delegate Terry Kilgore (via conference call)
Delegate Danny Marshall
Harold Pyon

Subgroup Members Absent:

Donna Morea
Steve Smith

I. Call to Order

The 2nd meeting of the Economically Distressed Areas Subgroup was called to order at 1:10 PM by Delegate Danny Marshall who was serving as Temporary Chair, on Thursday, July 8, 2010, in the General Assembly Building in Richmond, VA.

II. First Cities Presentation

Representatives from First Cities gave a presentation on the purpose and goals of the group. They addressed the necessity of having a workforce with at least a GED and the importance of public transit to allow employees to actually get to work. They encouraged the importance of urban distressed areas, not just rural.

III. Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved.

IV. Broadband in the Commonwealth Presentation

Karen Jackson, Deputy Secretary of Technology, gave a presentation on Broadband in the Commonwealth. She spoke on which areas currently have Broadband access, discussed stimulus funding with regards to Broadband, which grants they are receiving and applying for, the development of a Broadband strategic plan, and the best way to cover those who have no Broadband access.

V. Virginia Rural Center Presentation

Glen Sink, the Director of the Virginia Rural Center gave a presentation on the Virginia Rural Prosperity Commission study as well as several recommendations for ways to help rural areas grow and flourish.

VI. Virginia Economic Development Partnership Presentation

Mike Kaestner from VEDP gave a presentation on the incentives VEDP provides for distressed areas.

VII. Department of Business Assistance Presentation

Peter Su, director of DBA, gave a presentation on the aspects of DBA that are helpful to distressed areas, entrepreneurs, and small/start up businesses.

VIII. Discussion of Goals/Strategies

The subgroup members gave an overview of their research. Topics discussed included: need funding for rural infrastructure; connect the dots between job skills and job needs; need funding upfront cash/start up costs; advanced manufacturing; more assistance for businesses in smaller/poorer areas; importance of agriculture in the Commonwealth; programs need to cater to smaller manufacturers; minimize regulatory costs and permit requirements for manufacturers; higher education opportunities in agriculture; focus on wireless as well as broadband access; etc.

IX. Overview of Interim Report

Mike Hardy discussed the purpose and goals of presenting an interim report as well as the timeline.

X. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, August 17th at 10:00 AM in House Room 1 of the State Capitol.

XI. Public Comment

The meeting was opened for public comment. Topics brought forward included: David Bailey - the importance of HUB Zones and the need for more state procurement to go towards small business.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:11 PM.